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MARCHING BAND DEBUT HIGHLIGHTS U. LOWELL ALUMNI HOMECOMING

LOWELL, MASS. - The University of Lowell Alumni Association is sponsoring a Homecoming Weekend, October 12 and 13, with a variety of events planned, including the concert preview of the new U. Lowell Marching Band.

The Marching Band, a first in U. Lowell history, makes its debut in a free concert, Friday, October 12, at 7:00 PM in Durgin Hall. Organized by J. Alan Whiston of the College of Music faculty, the 120 member group is one of the largest bands in the area. Their music, in drum corps style, ranges from jazz to popular music, and features original compositions by top band leader John Higgins.

J. Alan Whiston, a former director of the University of New Hampshire band, is enthusiastic about the results of this three-year project, and calls the group a "first rate marching band."

Among the persons who have helped Whiston with the band are Rita Millette, an instructor with the Nashua Spartans, who assists on the rifles; David Vose, the percussion assistant from Berkeley College of Jazz; and Color Guard Captain George Kenney, a junior music major at U. Lowell. This year the students have chosen as the field director for the U. Lowell Marching Band Carolyn Sheedy, a sophomore music major.

In addition to appearing at all Lowell home games, the band will perform at the Dover Band Show, Dover N.H., on October 13; Methuen High School Band Show, October 14; and at the Billerica Band Show at Cawley Stadium, October 20.

Other events planned for the Homecoming are golf and tennis tournaments, a dinner dance, and a football game between U. Lowell and Western New England College. For more information and details about reservations call the Alumni Association Office at 454-6335.